

14 June 2019

Our Reference: IR-01-19-10002

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you in response to your request dated 19 March 2019. You asked:

- *I am making a request under the Official Information Act, for answers to questions about guns in the Whanganui policing area.*
  1. *Can you tell me the boundaries of that area?*
  2. *Can you tell me how many people have handed in guns to Whanganui Police since the mosque shootings on March 15?*
  3. *Also, what types of weapons have been handed in, and how many of each?*
  4. *And, if possible, what purpose the owners of those weapons may have had for possessing them?*
  5. *Can you, also, say how many people in the Whanganui Police area own semi or automatic rifles and pistols? Or have licences and endorsements that would allow that?*

Whanganui Police Area boundary is available here:

<https://www.police.govt.nz/sites/default/files/about-us/structure/districts/central-map.png>

Between 15 March and 4 May 2019, five people have surrendered five firearms in Whanganui Area – four rifles and one shotgun.

Question 4 is refused in accordance with section 18(g) as the information is not held. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision.

There are 214 people in Whanganui Area who hold a firearms licence with at least one endorsement that enables them to possess a pistol (B endorsement), an MSSA (E endorsement), or to be a collector of a pistol or a restricted weapon (C endorsement).

As at 5 May 2019, there are 81 people who hold a B endorsement in Whanganui Area, and 73 of them currently hold at least one pistol.

Before 12 April 2019, people who held an E endorsement were allowed to own MSSAs. This endorsement was revoked by legislation and all these firearms are currently held by licence holders under amnesty. There were 153 such endorsement holders in Whanganui

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## Police National Headquarters

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Area and 100 of them currently hold at least one firearm that used to be defined as an MSSA (now prohibited firearm).

Any other restricted weapons (eg, automatic rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers) require a C endorsement. There are 83 such endorsement holders in Whanganui Area and 58 of them currently have at least one such firearm.

Until 21 March 2019, no endorsement was required to hold a semi-automatic unless it was classed as an MSSA. Therefore the number of people who hold semi-automatic rifles is unknown.

For your information, Police has developed a process for proactive release of information, so the response to your request may be publicly released on the New Zealand Police website.

Yours sincerely



**Mike McIlraith**  
Acting Superintendent  
Arms Act Service Delivery Group